

Message Text

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SUBJ: CURRENT MEDIA REACTION

THE BULLETIN (CONSERVATIVE) AUGUST 11 COMMENTARY TITLED "TOWARDS ANOTHER STEP" EDITORIALIZES:

"IF THE TENSION BETWEEN EGYPT AND ISRAEL IS LIKELY TO BE EASED, ... THIS WILL BE WELCOME BY THOSE WHO WANT PEACE ... IN THE AREA, THAT AS PRESIDENT FORD HAS SAID COULD BECOME A CONFRONTATION BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE USSR. WHETHER THE DANGER OF CONFRONTATION COULD ARISE IN PORTUGAL IS SEEN AS JUST AS LIKELY IN INTERNATIONAL QUARTERS, BUT THE MIDDLE EAST HAS TO BE THE MAIN PREOCCUPATIONFOR THE TIME BEING....

ONE HAS TO WAIT UNTIL THE OVERALL SETTLEMENT IS ANNOUNCED IN ORDER TO BE ABLE TO DEFINE WHETHR THIS NEW STEP COULD LEAD TO FURTHER AGREEMENT. IT IS QUITE CLEAR THAT THE ISRAELIS HAVE DONE ALL THE WITHDRAWING SO FAR AND THAT IT WILL BE NECESSARY TO KNOW ... WHEN CLEARLY DEFINED SAFE BOUNDARIES WILL BE REACHED.

STRATEGICALLY, THE HANDING OVER OF THESE PASSES, IN RETURN FOR NOTHING, UNLESS THERE ARE SECRET CLAUSES, DOES NOT AUGUR WELL FOR PEACE IN THE AREA, IF IT WERE TO RESULT THAT THE GRADUAL EROSION OF ISRAEL'S CAPABILITY TO WITHSTANDTHE SQUEEZING, CAN HAVE SERIOUS EFFECTS ON THE INTERNAL POLITICAL SITUATION IN THE COUNTRY. IT IS A MATTER OF REJOICING THAT ANOTHER STEP TOWARDS PEACE HAS BEEN MADE, BUT IT WILL BE TOO SAD, IF THIS MEANS THAT

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ISRAEL WILL BE LAYING HERSELF WIDE OPEN WITH LITTLE POSSIBILITY

NOT OF DEFENCE, BUT OF COUNTER ATTACK. MUCH AS THE WORLD DESERVES
PEACE, ... ONE CANNOT ACCEPT THE ALMOST TOTAL SACRIFICE OF ISRAEL.

... THE TWO ISRAELI NEGOTIATORS WHO HAVE FLOWN TO THE UNITED
STATES TO CLEAR THE LAST POINTS FOR DR. KISSINGER'S SHUTTLE
DIPLOMACY WILL NOT DOUBT MAKE AMPLY CLEAR ISRAEL'S DESIRES FOR
PEACE, BUT REGARD FOR HER SAFETY MUST GO ON UNDIMINISHED." SMITH

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